



National Park Service
Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument
Lower Shin Pond Focus Workshop
Report of Input

Prepared by Leigh Tillman Facilitation
August 8, 2017, Shin Pond Village

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About the Focus Workshop

The Lower Shin Pond Focus Workshop was designed for the National Park Service and the local community around Lower Shin Pond to:

- Review the community input shared to date as to the major topics and issues to address specific to where the National Monument abuts Lower Shin Pond;
- Hear more in-depth input from the local community on these topics and issues and explore possible ways to move forward;
- Learn if there are any other locally focused topics or issues in regards to Lower Shin Pond that the community would like to discuss; and
- Review next steps in the process of determining how we will proceed from here in continuing the conversation.

The focus workshop was held at Shin Pond Village in Mount Chase, Maine. Forty-six attendees signed in. There was a mix of year-round and seasonal residents. The workshop was advertised locally in the town office, at Shin Pond Village, and through individual calls. Local politicians, local media, congressional offices, and the LUPC state office were all contacted about the focus workshop. This report of input from the focus workshop is available to the public.

To ensure that the process was one where all views were heard and respected and where the time was used efficiently and effectively, the National Park Service brought in a neutral facilitator, Leigh Tillman, to help design, facilitate, and report on the focus workshop. Please see Appendix A for the focus workshop agenda.

This report includes all input recorded during breakout group discussions; comments shared in the concluding whole group discussion; and comments from Further Input forms (Appendix C) and written statements received by August 15th (see Appendix D). Comments are captured in this report in the language in which they were written or shared.

Breakout Group Discussions

In breakout groups, participants discussed the two topics of focus for the evening:

1. Potential National Monument infrastructure connected to Lower Shin Pond
2. Road access through the National Monument

For each topic the breakout groups discussed the following two questions:

1. What are your thoughts and perspectives on this topic/issue?
2. What are possible solutions/ways forward that you see for addressing this topic/issue?

Volunteers facilitated four breakout groups. Each breakout group had the opportunity to first share comments on one of these topics. Comments were captured on flipcharts. Individuals were then asked to vote to prioritize what they considered the main points of the discussion to bring back to the whole group.

Breakout groups then moved to the second topic where they heard the comments shared in another breakout group's previous discussion. They added their own comments on this second topic and then again individuals were asked to vote to prioritize what they considered the main points from all comments made on this second topic to bring back to the whole group.

Herein comments are reported first by the top main points identified by each breakout group, followed by all comments collected from all breakout groups for each question on each topic.

Note: numbers in parentheses indicate the number of votes received in a prioritizing activity by that idea for that breakout group.

First Topic: Discussion of Potential National Monument Infrastructure Connected to Lower Shin Pond

What are Your Thoughts and Perspectives on Potential National Monument Infrastructure Connected to Lower Shin Pond?

Main Points of Discussions

First Breakout Group

- Maintain status quo (15)
- You want pristine – go to Baxter (8)
- Environmental impacts (3)

Second Breakout Group

- Maintain status quo (7)
- Would increased access encourage encroachment on/abuse of private property? (5)

- Environmental impacts (1)

Third Breakout Group

- Boat launch – 2 opposed, 11 okay (8)
- Nothing! versus in favor – 5 nothing!, 9 in favor (6)
- Don't want more people, more security issues (3)

Fourth Breakout Group

- Boat launch – 2 opposed, 11 okay (4)
- Keep any development such as boat ramp, docks, camp sites, outhouses, etc. on just one parcel of the property and not develop both (4)

All Comments Captured from Discussions

- Maintain status quo
 - No infrastructure
 - Disruptive to Shin Pond community
- Demand to accommodate visitors
- Limited access option
 - Unknown?
 - Control?
- You want pristine – go to Baxter
- Topography challenge – steep, hilly
- Environmental impacts
- Existing public beach/boat launch is sufficient
- Would increased access encourage encroachment on/abuse of private property?
- Nothing! versus in favor – 5 nothing!, 9 in favor
 - Nothing!
 - Keep peace and quiet
 - Fear of unknown
 - No utilities being allowed
 - Public access next to property
 - More people, more problems
 - Quiet
- Boat launch – 2 opposed, 11 okay
- Don't want more people, more security issues
- Other places to have boat launches
- New camps aren't causing any problem
- People cherish what it is now and want to keep it as now
- People who aren't landowners won't respect property
- Keep any development such as boat ramp, docks, campsites, outhouses, etc. on just one parcel of the property and not develop both

Possible Solutions and Ways Forward for Addressing Potential National Monument Infrastructure Connected to Lower Shin Pond

Main Points of Discussions

First Breakout Group

- Let rights expire (11)
- Shin Pond is too small to expand public access (7)
- Don't create access that can't always be managed (3)

Second Breakout Group

- Don't create access that can't always be managed (5)
- Shin Pond is too small to expand public access (4)
- Let rights expire (3)

Third Breakout Group

- No commercial operation! (7)
- Make up citizens' panel to work with government on these ideas – go beyond the two-hour meeting (6)
- Keep businesses down this end of Shin Pond (3)

Fourth Breakout Group

- Plan to deal with any impact such as trash (4)
- Keep businesses down this end of Shin Pond (3)
- Make up citizens' panel to work with government on these ideas – go beyond the two-hour meeting (1)

All Comments Captured from Discussions

- Let rights expire
- No motorized access
- Do infrastructure elsewhere
- Concern for future conditions, new owners
- What is boating access currently on Shin Pond?
- Shin Pond peace and quiet – paramount
- Buy a lot if you want access
- Shin Pond is too small to expand public access
- Don't create access that can't always be managed
- Need more solidified plan
- Will our public input really be consequential?
- Keep businesses down this end of Shin Pond
 - Easier access to lake here

- Make up citizens' panel to work with government on these ideas – go beyond the two-hour meeting
- Disruption of land/geography to access lake
- No commercial operation!
- Parking area – hours of operation
- Non-motorized boats preferred
- Plan to deal with any impact such as trash
 - Cans
 - “Carry-in, carry-out” doesn’t work well
 - Appropriate facilities such as toilets, etc. – only being built to handle the light traffic

Second Topic: Discussion of Road Access Through the National Monument

What are Your Thoughts and Perspectives on Road Access Through the National Monument?

Main Points of Discussions

First Breakout Group

- Camps left unattended – private property? (8)
- One good road access is sufficient (6)
- Environmental impact? (2)

Second Breakout Group

- One good road access is sufficient (16)
- Camps left unattended – private property? (1)

Third Breakout Group

- Road improvements needed on American Thread Road – brushing back, signage, beavers, ditching, etc. (4)
- People in this group support a new, more direct option of access to Lower Shin Pond (3)
- Concern that this benefit not only one specific shore or group of camp owners and that people on the west shore could also benefit from this new road option (3)

Fourth Breakout Group

- Maintenance – grading, ditching, plowing (6)
- People in this group support a new, more direct option of access to Lower Shin Pond (5)

- Would like power to be run – buried cable (5)

All Comments Captured from Discussions

- One good road access is sufficient
 - Happy with things as they are
- Points of view differ for public/private access
- Commercial power? – residential
- Environmental impact?
- Year-round access/maintenance?
- NPS – paved road?
- Restricted/regulated access EPI vs. NPS
- Change to commercial use if power?
- Camps left unattended – private property?
 - Park users will assume property is public
- Road improvements needed on American Thread Road – brushings back, signage, beavers, ditching, etc.
- People in this group support a new, more direct option of access to Lower Shin Pond
- Concern for if surrounding landowners will always have access via the Thread Road or any new option that could be implemented – not only summer but also in winter months
- Concern that this benefit not only one specific shore or group of camp owners and that people on the west shore could also benefit from this new road option
- Continued access on Grondin for landowners
- Would like power to be run – buried cable
- Maintenance – grading, ditching, plowing
 - Winter maintenance – seasonal access??
 - Plowing – winter
 - Grading – summer
- Can we limit access beyond the camps on a new road option?

Possible Solutions and Ways Forward for Addressing Road Access Through the National Monument

Main Points of Discussions

First Breakout Group

- Things remain as is (11)
- No access to grid power (2)

- Regulate public access/intrusion on private land (2)

Second Breakout Group

- Things remain as is (27)

Third Breakout Group

- Hiring contractors to address specific issue on said American Thread Road as it has diminished since being logged and maintained by them (5)
- Obtaining short/direct access off 159 to the National Monument lands by way of the shortest option from 159 (4)

Fourth Breakout Group

- Obtaining short/direct access off 159 to the National Monument lands by way of the shortest option from 159 (16)
- Build a new road but allow landowners to cut off access to their property (11)

All Comments Captured from Discussions

- Things remain as is
- No access to grid power
- Maintain remoteness/wilderness aspects
- Regulate public access/intrusion on private land
- Hiring contractors to address specific issue on said American Thread Road as it has diminished since being logged and maintained by them
- Obtaining short/direct access off 159 to the National Monument lands by way of the shortest option from 159
- Build a new road but allow landowners to cut off access to their property

Whole Group Discussion

Participants came back together as a whole group and heard report-outs of the main points from each breakout group discussion. These presentations were followed by clarifying comments from Tim Hudson, Superintendent of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, and Lucas St. Clair, Elliotsville Plantation, as well as additional comments from participants.

- Participant comments
 - There is public canoe access – it is marked on the map
 - Where did campsites come in? Is that a possibility in the [deed]?

- Clarifying comments from Tim Hudson and Lucas St. Clair
 - The two topics [of road access through the National Monument and potential infrastructure connected to Lower Shin Pond] are related
 - We have no rights on the Grondin Road. If the Thread Road becomes the main access it could [impact] some of the snowmobile access. There are some club trails in there.
 - Heard loud and clear that we need to do some work
 - There was a question about whether a campground could be built
 - As a foundation, we don't have the right to build a campground
 - The Park Service could
 - It is clear that this is a special place to all of you. This input that we got tonight and going forward is very valuable.
 - We have no intention of doing anything without a majority of you wanting it
- Participant comments
 - Majority of what people?
- Clarifying comments from Tim Hudson and Lucas St. Clair
 - The people who show up for these meetings
- Participant comments
 - The comment that you just made about road access and snowmobiles – I don't understand how the conflict would arise
- Clarifying comments from Tim Hudson and Lucas St. Clair
 - It has to do with road access in the winter. Road will be plowed.
 - To clarify, the American Thread Road is also a snowmobile trail. Camp owners have deeded access so they can plow that road.
 - If you could eliminate some of the potential conflict that would be something to look at. It is an existing conflict that could be resolved if we look at road access.
- Participant comments
 - [In regards to infrastructure] – Who would be making this decision?
- Clarifying comments from Tim Hudson and Lucas St. Clair
 - Lucas St. Clair: I am the president of a private foundation, Elliotsville Plantation, Inc. Members of my family make up the board – there are five of us. For a host of projects, we decide through the budgeting process.
 - This [listening] process is to get input to inform our decision. From what I'm hearing, the status quo is what you prefer and we are perfectly happy with that.
- Participant comments
 - Is there some better way that we would know about these meetings?
 - I notified the town office
 - Is there any database of the property owners on this pond?
 - A lot of people didn't know about this meeting
 - They send us our tax bills, they should know

- I'm reasonably certain that the people and their tax information is publicly available
 - Rich Cormier probably has most of the contact information
 - I'm the president of an association – I'd love to be on the mailing list
 - Put a sign up on Route 159
- Clarifying comments from Tim Hudson and Lucas St. Clair
 - Tim Hudson: I'm not allowed to put signs up on state roads
- Participant comments
 - Do you have to get LURC approval?
- Clarifying comments from Tim Hudson and Lucas St. Clair
 - Lucas St. Clair: I met with them yesterday. There are a lot of other places for infrastructure within the Monument. From what I'm hearing, access to this pond is not a priority.
 - When would be a good time to have another meeting?
- Participant comments
 - September 10th – you'd have 150 people here
- Clarifying comments from Tim Hudson and Lucas St. Clair
 - Would like to work with a group of people who could help to get the word out
- Participant comments
 - Get the word out earlier. Some of us live a long way away.
 - Office hours?
- Clarifying comments from Tim Hudson and Lucas St. Clair
 - Someone is in the Lumbermen's Museum every day. We usually are in Millinocket on Thursday and the Lumbermen's Museum on Saturday.

Appendices

Appendix A: Lower Shin Pond Focus Workshop Agenda

National Park Service In Support of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Lower Shin Pond Focus Workshop

Agenda

August 8, 2017, Shin Pond Village

Objectives

This focus workshop is designed for the National Park Service and the local community around Lower Shin Pond to:

- Review the community input shared to date as to the major topics and issues to address specific to where the National Monument abuts Lower Shin Pond;
- Hear more in-depth input from the local community on these topics and issues and explore possible ways to move forward;
- Learn if there are any other locally focused topics or issues in regards to Lower Shin Pond that the community would like to discuss; and
- Review next steps in the process of determining how we will proceed from here in continuing the conversation.

Agenda

- | | |
|------|--|
| 6:00 | Welcoming Remarks
Tim Hudson, Superintendent, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, National Park Service will begin the focus workshop with welcoming remarks. |
| 6:05 | About the Focus Workshop
Facilitator Leigh Tillman will review the ground rules and agenda for the focus workshop. |
| 6:15 | Presentation of Topics to Discuss
Tim Hudson and Lucas St. Clair, Elliotsville Plantation, will present background on the topics and issues that we are focusing on this evening. They will also review input shared at the Community Listening Sessions in regards to the Lower Shin Pond area. There will be time to ask clarifying questions and to highlight any other locally |

focused topics or issues participants would like to focus on in breakout group discussions.

6:30

Community Input Breakout Groups

We will move into small groups to provide input on possible National Monument infrastructure connected to Lower Shin Pond and road access through the National Monument as well as any other locally focused topics/issues raised.

Questions for Breakout Group Discussions:

1. What are your thoughts and perspectives on this topic/issue?
2. What are possible solutions/ways forward that you see for addressing this topic/issue?

7:25

Breakout Group Report Out

We will come back together as a whole group and hear report-outs from the breakout groups. There will be time for clarifying comments from Tim Hudson and Lucas St. Clair and additional comments from the whole group.

7:55

Closing Remarks

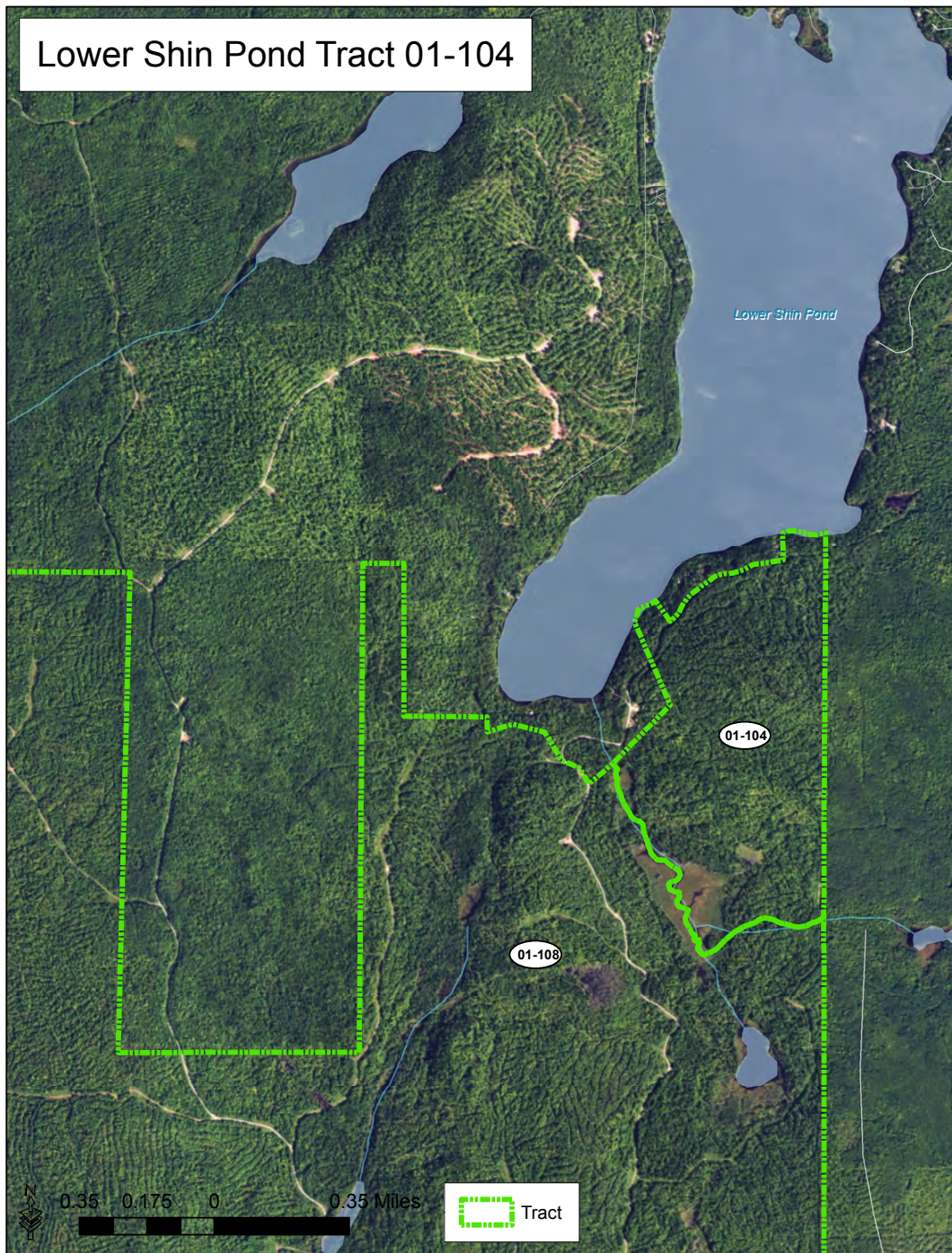
We will hear final remarks from Tim Hudson and Lucas St. Clair including what happens from here in our process.

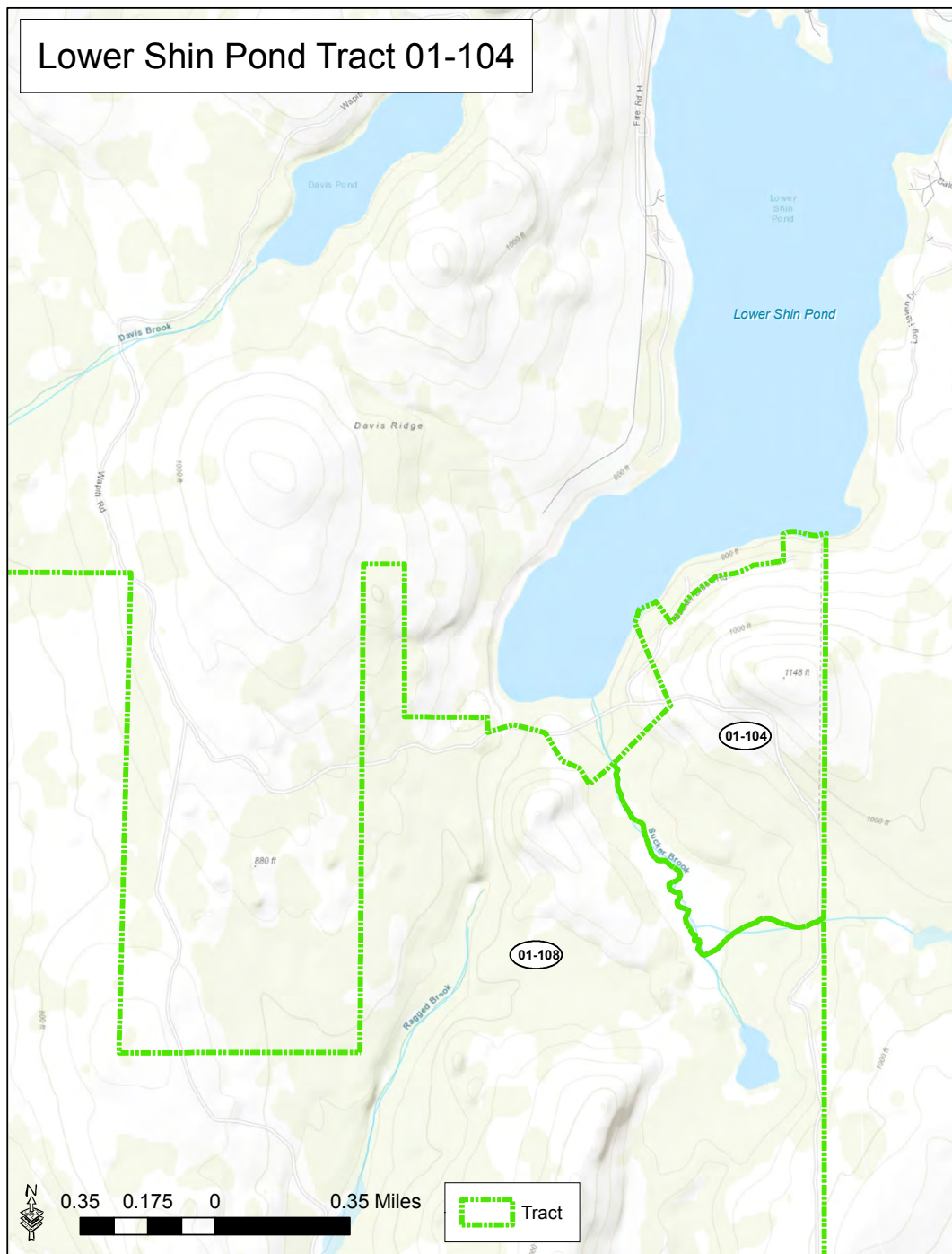
8:00

Adjourn

Appendix B: Reference Documents from the Focus Workshop

The following maps and portion of the deed were referred to and available for reference during the focus workshop.





**EXHIBIT B
RESERVATIONS AND COVENANTS**

The Grantor, hereby reserves rights, as specifically set forth herein, to use and occupy the Property (hereinafter referred to as the "Reserved Rights"), subject to all Specific and General Conditions stated below.

PROPERTY SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

Grantor reserves the right, but not the obligation, to construct, establish and locate piers, docks, boathouses, ramps, parking areas or similar structures, intended to serve visitors to the Property. The Reserved Rights shall be for a period of five (5) years from the day and year first written above (the "Term").

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Consultation

All Reserved Rights shall be exercised in consultation with the Grantee but shall not require Grantee's permission or approval.

Nonexclusive Reservations

Grantor's use and occupancy reservations shall be nonexclusive and all said reservations shall be exercised subject to and in conjunction with those administrative and operational needs of the Grantee.

Compliance

The Grantor shall ensure that the exercise of its Reserved Rights is in compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws, ordinances, and regulations.

Access

The Grantor shall have the right to enter upon, travel and transport personnel, materials and equipment over and across the Property to the extent reasonable and necessary to exercise the Reserved Rights.

Surface Alterations

Grantor reserves the right to alter the surface of the Property to the extent necessary or convenient to exercise the Reserved Rights provided all such surface alterations must be located and designed in a manner to assure protection of the objects of scientific and historic interest and to minimize soil erosion, alterations to wetlands, and ecological or archeological harm to the Property.

Structures

All structures shall be sited in an unobtrusive manner, complimentary to the landscape. The siting of any structure shall be above any flood level and off of the banks of a watercourse. Any structure that is built for mountain views should be sited so that it is not obviously visible from other viewpoints.

Appendix C: Focus Workshop Further Input Form

Further Input and Workshop Evaluation forms were handed out before the concluding whole group discussion. The Further Input portion of the handout is included here. Comments provided on the Further Input portion are included in this report.

National Park Service
In Support of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument
Lower Shin Pond Focus Workshop
Further Input and Workshop Evaluation

August 8, 2017, Shin Pond Village

Thank you for being a part of today's focus workshop. We appreciate your input and feedback. This form is an opportunity to share further input on the topics/issues discussed this evening *and* to share feedback on the workshop.

Feel free to fill out this form and return it to us this evening. Or you can drop it off at our Welcome Desk in Patten at the Lumbermen's Museum. All comments shared under "Further Input" on this form and received by Monday, August 14th, 2017 will be included in the focus workshop report.

Further Input

Topics from Breakout Group Discussions:

1. National Monument infrastructure connected to Lower Shin Pond
2. Road access through the National Monument
3. Other topics/issues you'd like to comment on

Questions from Breakout Group Discussions:

1. What are your thoughts and perspectives on this topic/issue?
2. What are possible solutions/ways forward that you see for addressing this topic/issue?

Please feel free to share additional thoughts on the topics and questions from the breakout group discussions and any additional comments:

Appendix D: Comments from Further Input Forms and Written Comments from Participants

The following comments were submitted by participants through Further Input forms (Appendix C) and written statements received by the National Park Service by August 15th, 2017.

Name: none provided

Town, City: none provided

- Why would there be a need to spend money and cause massive disruption to the environment and residents of Lower Shin Pond to create access to this small pond? People can access ponds like this much closer to home and public access already exists here for local residents and the public.

Name: none provided

Town, City: none provided

- This land was purchased with a purpose – to expand. I am against this totally. Shin Pond is too small. The only thing going on here is “money talks” and majority will not rule.

Name: none provided

Town, City: none provided

- Notification of these meetings needs to improve significantly

Name: none provided

Town, City: none provided

- I've been coming here for 21 years to a family camp that has been here for generations. We come up every summer and blend in with the community. There is nothing to say how/who this park entrance will disturb the nature of this prized pond.

Name: John Shirley

Town, City: none provided

- Infrastructure – any infrastructure, such as boat launches, parking lots, and other features that would attract visitors would result in a situation

detrimental to property owners on the pond. The platform on which such waterfront facilities would exist would be small relative to the spaces into which visitors would venture. Once departed from this small platform, some visitors would disregard or not recognize that the docks, boats, and other waterfront facilities in the area immediately adjacent to the public area, are in fact private property.

- This disproportional juxtaposition of public and private property, coupled with the sense of entitlement/ownership to be held by some visitors, will lead to incidents of trespassing, littering, and potentially serious violations. No policing infrastructure exists to regulate such activity and the neighboring property owners should not be compelled to introduce such.
- One point that was glossed over in the discussion is the fact that there already exists a public boat launch on Lower Shin Pond. The “brown sand beach” location is an existing public access. If it is determined a more adequate launch site is needed, the existing access could be engineered at low cost relative to building an entire, new facility. Recent and existing DeLorme maps indicate the location of the existing launch.

Name: Debbie Shirley

Town, City: none provided

- There already exists a public boat launch (brown sand beach) and a “commercial” end of the lake. It would make more sense to direct visitors to those areas. Adding a boat launch or other amenities on the small amount of pond frontage that the Monument owns would totally change the character of the less developed, “off the grid” end of the pond. It would inevitably result in trespassing and possibly damage to private lands (as visitors would assume that surrounding land is “theirs” to visit as well). Without the addition of additional infrastructure at the end of the pond, I see no reason to change the existing road structure. It wouldn’t be necessary to add a road to more directly access the area (which would, once again, encourage additional traffic to the private land which could not be monitored or “policed” by park officials). A few landowners at one end of Sucker Brook Road might want a road to more easily access their camps, but I think the majority of landowners further along the road (Sucker Brook Road) would be against the development of such a road and the ensuing change to the area.

Name: none provided

Town, City: none provided

- This map [map withheld] shows the camps that make up the original 100-acre lot purchased from Hunter Davis at the end of the 20th century. All the lots from Sucker Brook to Woodward’s lot are a part of that lot. Some of these

- were the first camps on the lake, and the four families who own them (Rogers, Lent, Peavey, and Williams) are all accustomed to accessing our camps primarily by boat. Road access is a new-fangled novelty, but not a necessity.
- I asked everyone who I could find in their camps this week if they wanted a new road connecting Sucker Brook Road to 157 and/or public access to the shoreline. All said no to both questions with the exception of [one name withheld] who said they would be ok with the road only if it was for residents only and if Monument visitors were made to use the Thread Road.
 - After speaking with everyone, it occurred to me that the question you may want to ask is: would you give up road access in exchange for keeping the general public out of our cove? As 10/19 of our camps do not use road access currently, I am pretty sure the answer would be yes.
 - Tally by individual:
 - 106/110 do not want a new road (4 want it but for residents only)
 - 107/110 do not want public access (3 say ok but only via Thread Road)
 - Tally by lot:
 - 13/14 do not want road or public access
 - 1/14 is okay with it but only if road is residents only
 - I have spoken with [three names withheld] and am 90% sure they agree with the majority of us. But I haven't been able to speak to them this week. I have no idea where [one name withheld] stands.
 - All the places on Sucker Brook Road have been built since Herb Haines created that road in the early 2000s. They seem to have a separate set of concerns. But as far as the historic Hunter Davis camps, we strongly oppose any development of Fairview Ridge, be it road or boathouse or what have you.